

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 6, Folder 1

Personal letters  
received,  
September 19, 1946-  
December 26, 1946

Box 6  
Incoming, 1946-1948

Rear Admiral A. E. Smith, Naval War College, 26 July 1946  
Plans for Battle Evaluation Group

Com Western Sea Frontier, Oldendorf, 8 April 1947  
Comments on Sound Military Decision

P. F. Collier & Son, 4 December 1947  
Payment for article on naval strategy

Office of CNO, Captain S. D. Willingham, 9 November 1948  
Comments on Battle Evaluation Reports, Sound Military  
Decision, and U.N. Peace Keeping Force in Palestine! !

0002



19 September 1946

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
U. S. Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Rafe:

Pardon my delay in answering your very interesting letter.

The information you received from Denfeld was about what I had expected. I have heard from my son-in-law, Jim Gray, who is Aide to Admiral Fitch at the Naval Academy, that there is a strong and persistent rumor in those parts which came from Admiral Mitscher that I was to be CINCPAC. I don't know where Mitscher got his information in this case, nor do I believe that the candidate has been chosen. I told you what Ernie King said, and it more or less agrees with what Denfeld said. Nimitz will be out here on 2 October and I probably will receive more or less definite information from him.

I have heard from other sources about the Selection Board in November. Whether or not I will be assigned to that duty, I don't know. I do know that I am going to be in Washington in November for a Commandant's conference and, of course, it might be that they would save travel money and kill two birds with one stone by putting me on that Board. Unless they do something very promptly to make present temporary rear admirals permanent, there will not be enough officers available to sit on the Board if they leave me out.

Have you seen the new proposed promotion plan for officers which was sent out from Washington on 10 September? I think there are a good many jokers in it and that it has an unjustifiably large number of flag officers. That and the fact that officers have to be weeded out to make a flow of promotions, irrespective of ability, are the weak points in the bill, I believe.

Everything is going well here and Betty and I are enjoying the nice weather which prevails in this area.

Best to Admiral Spruance and "Hoke" Smith.

Sincerely,

J. B. OLDENDORF

0003

In reply address  
COMMANDER,  
NAVAL AIR BASES  
11th Naval District  
San Diego 35, Calif.  
and refer to:  
NAB 11/

HEADQUARTERS  
COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR BASES  
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT

26 September 1946

Dear Rafe:

Your letter of 20 September asking about the action report of the Lingayen operation reached me today.

If I remember correctly, there was no action report put in for Task Group 77.4 other than endorsements on the reports from the various Unit Commanders of 77.4. I have no means of knowing for sure about this as I kept no personal file of this report and the official files are now stowed away in some office in Los Angeles that has been detailed to receive all battle reports. I am quite sure that my 77.4.1 report covered everything.

I appreciate the kind remarks you made in regard to the CVE fliers and about me. It is always a great pleasure to work for you and "Oldy" and I hope, if we go to war again, we can all go back to the same jobs--I am not one of those, however, who feel that war is in the offing.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



C. T. DURGIN.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N.  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0004

In reply address  
COMMANDER,  
NAVAL AIR BASES  
11th Naval District  
San Diego 35, Calif.  
and refer to  
NAB 11/

HEADQUARTERS  
COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR BASES  
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT

7 October 1946

Dear Rafe:

Your letter of 1 October brought good news about the Jap DE's, Momi and Hinoki. I was never very proud of that action and thought that we should have sunk them on the one attack we did make. I think that our failure to sink them immediately was due to the newness of the pilots. I'll bet they would not have gotten away if the action had occurred a week later after our pilots had had a taste of action over Lingayen. The fact that we sunk one and badly damaged another makes me quite a bit happier. If there is any other information that you want, don't hesitate to write. While I don't have a complete record, I do have a pretty good idea of much that went on.

I appreciate your kind words about saving myself for the next war. I hope to God that that won't happen because it is going to be a tough one.

I told Oldie what you wrote about the DE's. He was very much interested and of course pleased that we did do a pretty good job on them after all.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
C. T. DURGIN.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

0005

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



10 October 1946

Commodore R. W. Bates, U.S.N.,  
Naval War College,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

Dear Rafe:

Thanks for your nice letter of October 2nd. Your congratulations I am glad to have; your confidence in me I shall try to justify.

Naturally, I am glad to get back to sea; but at the same time, I am reluctant to go before we have completed the legislative program so vital to the Navy of the future.

My best to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis".

Louis Denfeld,  
Vice Admiral, U.S.N.

0006

THE CLAMBAKE CLUB  
NEWPORT, R. I.

October 21st, 1946

Commodore Richard W. Bates  
Newport, R.I.

Dear Commodore Bates:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Clambake Club held on Saturday, October 19th you were elected a Subscriber of the Club for the balance of the season.

You will find statement enclosed for your subscription.

Yours very truly,

*George Henry Warren*  
Secretary

0007



State of  
Connecticut

COMMISSION ON ALCOHOLISM

~~100 WHEATFIELD AVENUE NEW HAVEN 10~~

159 Main St., Stamford, Conn.  
Phone: 4-9597

SELDEN D. BACON, Ph.D., *Chairman*  
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CHARLES T. BINGHAM, M.D.  
GEORGE C. CONWAY

DUDLEY PORTER MILLER, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

October 22, 1948

Captain R. W. Bates, U.S.N.  
12 Mt. Vernon St.  
Newport, R.I.

Dear Captain Bates:

You are cordially invited to visit the Connecticut Commission on Alcoholism's new clinic at the above address between 4 and 6 o'clock Friday afternoon, October 29. Members of the Commission will be present and Governor Shannon has accepted our invitation to inspect the clinic at 5 o'clock.

We hope that you may find it possible to come.

Sincerely yours,

*Alice M. Fellows*

(Miss) Alice M. Fellows  
Senior Mental Hygienist

AMF/vf

0008



IN REPLY ADDRESS  
THE COMMANDANT  
U. S. NAVAL BASE, PHILADELPHIA 12, PA.  
AND REFER TO NO.

UNITED STATES NAVAL BASE  
PHILADELPHIA 12, PA.

30 October 1946

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN,  
Naval War College,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

Dear Rafe,

I received your nice letter of October 14th, and I am glad to hear that things up there are progressing so well. The fact that I have not written you does not mean that we have not thought of you, as Elsa, Reggie and I all enjoyed your visit in Philadelphia. Kathryn is sorry that she missed seeing you.

Things have been going pretty rapidly down here prior to, and during, Navy Week. There have been quite a few civic and official parties that I have had to go to as Commandant of the Base - also a number of speeches, which you know I do not like. Reggie has had even more as Commandant of the District.

Like everywhere else, Philadelphia starts becoming social in the fall, and our position puts us in line for a certain amount of this activity. In fact, I have not had time to play golf for three weeks, even though the weather has been delightful and most favorable for golf. I am going to rectify that this Saturday.

I have not seen Mrs. Ware since our nice visit out there, but Elsa Kauffman met her at luncheon the other day and liked her very much. She said they talked about you, so your ears must have burned.

I imagine you are enjoying Newport and your social curriculum is probably more strenuous than your official one.

- 1 -

0009

Give Riley and ~~Mr.~~ Doyle my best.

Reggie says you will be down for the Army-Navy game, so we will both see you here. I hope by then we can say "Hello, Admiral."

With best regards, in which Kathryn joins me.

Your old friend,

*Ralph*

P.S. I made my Navy Day speech on Monday in Borough Hall in Brooklyn.

R.

0010



October 31, 1946

Captain R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Rafe:

I received your letter of October 23 and much appreciated the contents. As you probably know by this time, I am not to be a member of the Selection Board. The list, I understand, was published in the Army and Navy Journal of recent date.

Denfeld was out here just after the American Legion Convention in San Francisco, which he attended with Admiral Nimitz. I saw Louie and had a talk with him. He told me then that I was not to be on the Board but could be if I wanted. I told him that I much preferred not to be on it.

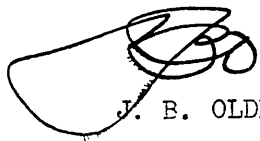
The Secretary of the Navy and the Assistant Secretary (Kenney) have been out here recently, as well as other high ranking officers, but I have no really "hot" information.

I note that you say the Reading Room is running full tilt. That is a great club. Remember me kindly to the Douglasses, Bastedos, Shackfords, and Castlemans.

As you now know, John Nicholas Brown has been made Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air. I do not believe that he knows anything about "Air" but, from my informant, his appointment was made because the Democratic Party needed a little bolstering in Rhode Island.

Wishing you every kind luck and consideration in the forthcoming November 12th event, I am

Sincerely,



J. B. OLDENDORF

0011



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF NAVAL HISTORY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1500,  
6 November 1946.

Commodore R. W. Bates,  
Naval War College,  
Newport,  
Rhode Island.

Dear Rafe:

Your airmail letter, which bears no date, reached me at noon today. I have just been able to see Admiral Fletcher.

Admiral Fletcher says that Admiral Nimitz did not interfere with him at any time while he was operating in the South Pacific. He says that he is reasonably certain that he formed the available vessels into one force on that occasion merely because it seemed a logical thing to do. He says that he has no records or notes to refresh his memory, but he believes that he formed one task force in which Admiral Fitch commanded the carriers, and in which he turned over the tactical command to Admiral Fitch during air operations. He added that he was out there first and that Admiral Fitch's task force was formed and arrived later.

I was sorry to miss you on the day when you were kind enough to come around for the purpose of seeing me. I shall hope for better luck next time you are in Washington.

Very best wishes,

As ever,

*John B. Heffernan*

0012



**GAR WOOD INDUSTRIES, INC. : DETROIT II, MICHIGAN**

342 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.,

OFFICE OF  
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

7 November 1946

Dear Dick:

It was nice to receive your letter of 24 October. Your partner must have been quite keen, and a good cow-boy pool shot, because you know I know your game - and I am sure your contribution was limited to (as you mention) the Green Book - S.M.D. His Lordship, no doubt, carried the operation end of the partnership and you supplied the strategy. It certainly worked. In fact it always does, if properly applied to any given problem. I wish I could have been there to witness the finals.

Perhaps you had better take Bob Young in hand. He is a brilliant fellow, having no knowledge of S.M.D. Imagine his accomplishments if he had that knowledge. Seriously, Rafe, I don't see how any top executive can possibly plan or lick any problem without it. I think the Navy Department should open the College to top ranking business executives and their sales managers, for a one or two month's course in S.M.D. I could revise the book to make it fit the problems confronting business people.

This plan would also serve a double purpose. It would bring those business people into closer contact with the Navy and its thinking. It would also serve to win friends for our cause, and help us lick the Army plan for unification.

0013

COPY

7 November 1946

Dear Dick:

It was nice to receive your letter of 24 October. Your partner must have been quite keen, and a good cow-boy pool shot, because you know I know your game - and I am sure your contribution was limited to (as you mention) the Green Book - S.M.D. His Lordship, no doubt, carried the operation end of the partnership, and you supplied the strategy. It certainly worked. In fact - it always does if properly applied to any given problem. I wish I could have been there to witness the finals.

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This plan would also serve a double purpose. It would bring those business people into closer contact with the Navy and its thinking. It would also serve to win friends for our cause, and help us lick the Army plan for unification.

Why not have Bob Young sit in on one or more sessions at the War College. Let him read several of your presentations. He is the kind of chap who could and would grasp the importance of S.M.D. It should be referred to - S.B.D. (Sound Business Decision).

If you should think well of this idea, let me know. I would like to take it up with Jim Forrestal and Admiral Radford. Also, Admiral Denfeld.

0014

Commodore R. W. Bates

7 November 1946

Mrs. Bergen is coming along fine. She will sit up next week and if all goes well, she will be home before Thanksgiving.

More of the S.B.D. later. I am dictating this letter on a plan en route to Detroit. Will call you Thursday or Friday.

Do you think the President of the College would go for this idea. I would like to talk to him about it.

Sincerely,

John J. Bergen

Commodore R. W. Bates  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0015

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M. E. POOL, CLERK  
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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

26 November 1946

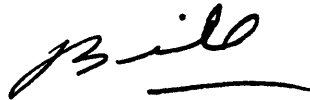
Dear Dick:

Your letter of congratulations of November 15th has been received and is greatly appreciated. I was in Sacramento during the campaign and Helen and I had dinner with Tiny and Martha before our Sacramento meeting. We certainly enjoyed having a chance to see them again.

Please give my very best regards to Mrs. Paul Fitzsimmons with whom I served on the Republican National Committee some years ago.

With best personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



William F. Knowland  
United States Senator

Commodore R. W. Bates  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0016



In reply address  
COMMANDER,  
NAVAL AIR BASES  
11th Naval District  
San Diego 35, Calif.  
and refer to:  
NAB 11/

HEADQUARTERS  
COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR BASES  
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT

6 December 1946

Dear Rafe:

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of a book prepared and published by the members of my staff. Since it deals with many of the activities in which you had a vital part I am quite sure you will be interested.

I see our mutual friend "Oldy" quite often and while we don't want any more war we have decided that if a war comes we want our same jobs back. Neither of us will concede one thing in honors or glory to the big battleships or the big carriers.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

  
C. T. DURGIN.

Capt. R. W. Bates,  
U. S. Naval War College,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

0017

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMANDANT  
FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
AND REFER TO NO.

FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT STAFF HEADQUARTERS  
U. S. NAVAL BASE, PHILADELPHIA 12, PA.

13 December 1946

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
U. S. Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Dickie:

On my return from a strenuous conference in Washington I received your very nice letter. It was a great pleasure for both Elsa and myself to have you down here and I am sorry that you couldn't stay with us. I might add that I think your Mrs. Wear a very delightful person and we shall hope to see her again.

In regard to the Selection Board, from what I could gather in talking with various members, it was a most difficult proposition. I do not know exactly what their directive was, but it would appear that they must have had some reason for going down as low as they did.


As you know, from our many conversations on the subject, I have consistently felt that the system in vogue on selections during the war resulted in many injustices and I had hoped that with the advent of regularly constituted selection boards that some of these injustices would be corrected.

At the conference in Washington the new Officer Personnel Bill was explained at length to us, and from what I can gather it will be submitted to Congress as is. If I understand the correspondence, you will definitely have another opportunity and I shall hope to see your name on the list.

I trust all goes well with you in Newport and that you are thoroughly enjoying not only your work but your spare time. Please give my best regards to the "Gentlemen and Scholars of the Reading Room" when you meet for the annual Christmas luncheon -- not forgetting Mr. Reilly and Willie. Please give my regards to Raymond and Mrs. Soruance, the Gus Whites, the Normans and any of my other old friends you may see, and in addition wish them all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

To you, Elsa joins me in sending our very best regards and wishes for a Very Cheerful Yuletide Season.

Very sincerely,

  
J. I. KAUFFMAN  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy  
Commandant, 4th Naval District

0018

J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
SHELL BUILDING  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
SUTTER 3307

Zone 4

December 26, 1946

Commodore Richard Bates  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Commodore Bates:

Having today had a cocktail with Commodore Bates, and having been reminded by him that Sullivan still believes in never destroying a letter and never writing one, and having been recipient of letters, christmas cards and birth announcements from each addressee I feel that the Bates stentorian remonstrations should bear some fruit, and, at least, have this message convey no thought other than that I am alive and still kicking as well as to give each of you the others address.

With the war over a year the writer is well geared to civilian life and sincerely hopes that Dunfee, Dexter and Kelley are likewise enjoying Mommy and Mufti. As to the Celibate Commodore we shall have to exclude Mommy and as to the remaining sailors and soldier confine Mufti to shore activities. As a matter of fact who wants Mufti when he has Mommy?

Really thought Hamley had enough of ORANGE in the Western Pacific when he was Kamikaze Kissed. Intend next month to move my office to One Eleven Sutter directly across the street and within staggering distance of Hamley's favorite drinking establishment, The Bostonian.

Kelley made desperate effort to become a native son but notice from his address that he has been Looped. Admiral Oldendorf tells me he has heard from his ex-Flag Lieutenant. O is Commandant 11 (San Diego).

0019

Commodore Richard Bates  
December 26, 1946  
Page 2

Kingman will retire February 1, presumably with four-stars. Have had several pleasant visits with him.

Dunfee and Tina have a new baby and if you will recollect the sadness of his mission just three years ago when he left Long Beach on a hurried leave it will help you feel most happy for them.

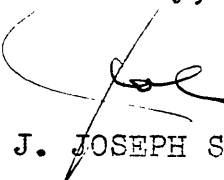
Can't help but think of Chandler, Swede, Charlie Walker, Weber, Schroeder, Calhoun and Stewart Hawley.

Most of you have probably heard that Linthicum and Chandler's only daughter are now husband and wife.

Dr. Petrusich came by for a Christmas drink. Hasn't grown an inch!

The very best in '47 for all my shipmates.

Sincerely,



J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

JJS:ef

Capt. J. R. Hamley  
14 Park Place  
Orange, Texas

Capt. Lawrence Ruff  
705 Enderby Drive  
Alexandria,

Lt. Col. W. J. McKennan, U.S.M.C.  
Naval Retiring Board  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. Herman Dunfee  
501 Vineland Road  
Bay Village, Ohio

Mr. L. R. Dexter  
1429 Brady  
Davenport, Iowa

Mr. Raymond Kelley  
1508 N. Luna  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Robert Linthicum  
c/o Lt. Col. W. J. McKennan,  
U.S.M.C.  
Naval Retiring Board  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Washington 25, D. C.

0020